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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

407th Meeting
Tuesday, 13 June 1995, 10 a.m.
Vienna

Chairman: Mr. Hohenfellner . . . . . (Austria)

The meeting was called to order at 10.05 a.m.

General exchange of views *(continued)*

The Chairman: Before calling the first speaker I should like to remind representatives that, according to the agenda we adopted yesterday, we shall continue our general debate this afternoon and tomorrow morning. It is my intention to close the list of speakers on this agenda item at the end of this morning's meeting. I therefore urge all representatives wishing to speak on the item to add their names to the list of speakers before them. I am determined to ensure that the Committee functions in a disciplined manner. Bearing in mind my request that members be here on time, I am a little discouraged at the attendance. However, I am determined to start meetings punctually at 10 o'clock in the morning and 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Mr. Chandrasekhar (India): My delegation is very pleased to see you, Sir, once again in the Chair guiding the proceedings of the Committee at its thirty-eighth session. Your rich experience and well established skill in successfully guiding the Committee in the past provide us with a good basis to expect that this session too will conclude successfully under your chairmanship.

My delegation would like to take this opportunity to place on record its sincere appreciation and gratitude to Professor John Carver for the outstanding and brilliant manner in which he guided the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee during the past 25 years. We learned regretfully of his decision to stand down from the chairmanship of that Committee. Professor Carver set a great example of leadership and of a tradition of success. The achievements of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee during his long tenure added new dimensions to the history of international cooperation in the field of outer space.

As the Committee is meeting for the first time following the latest expansion of its membership, my delegation would like to welcome all new members and express its confidence that their participation will enrich the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies.

I should like to take a few minutes to inform delegations of the recent progress in space activities in India. The current year is a very busy one for the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) in view of the preparations for the launching of three satellites serving different missions. The first of these is an advanced version of the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite IRS-1C, which is scheduled for launch towards the end of this year. IRS-1C carries both multispectral sensors and a panchromatic camera system, which are capable of providing data of about 23 metres and 6 metres' resolution respectively.

The satellite also incorporates a wide-field sensor payload useful for monitoring vegetation and capable of providing data of 180 metres' resolution in two spectral bands over a swath of 800 kilometres. Data from IRS-1C will be available on a global basis. Another launch scheduled for the latter part of this year is the next Indian multi-purpose satellite, INSAT-2C. This satellite carries payloads for telecommunications and television broadcasting and includes a transponder for mobile communications. It will serve to develop further the operational services

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already established through its predecessors, INSAT-2A and INSAT-2B. Another major milestone scheduled to be passed is the next developmental flight of the Indian Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle, which will put into orbit an IRS-P3 satellite. The IRS-P3 will carry a three-channel wide-field camera, an X-ray payload from ISRO and a modular opto-electronic scanner developed and owned by the German Aerospace Research Establishment (DLR).

Activities relating to the promotion of international cooperation progressed well, as they had in the past. A team from the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) of the United States of America visited ISRO to discuss mutual cooperative activities, and as a result several potential areas for cooperation have been identified in the field of earth sciences and climate studies. ISRO also held bilateral discussions with agencies such as the National Centre for Space Studies (CNES) and the European Space Agency (ESA) to review the progress of earlier agreements.

As a follow-up measure to the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development held last year, India has been actively participating in the regional space programmes for sustainable development. Several opportunities were also provided for personnel from other developing countries to receive training in space applications, under the aegis of the SHARES Programme, which is being implemented by the Indian Space Research Organization. India also contributed actively to the activities of international organizations and bodies such as the International Astronautical Federation (IAF), the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

My delegation would now like to draw attention to an important subject which we have been debating extensively over the last few years. This relates to the question of convening a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE). During our debates on the subject of such a conference, we have considered aspects such as objectives, goals, agenda, funding and organizational matters. At our Committee's thirty-seventh session, last year, we agreed that a third UNISPACE could be convened in the near future. Further, in order to facilitate the formulation of recommendations on the agenda, venue, funding and a date for the conference, extensive discussions took place during the thirty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, which was held during February 1995. This effort culminated in the development of many common views on the opportunity, objectives and organization of the conference. An indicative agenda comprising a number of substantial items was also developed for further consideration. As a part of our deliberations, we also pursued an examination of other means of achieving goals set for the conference.

On the basis of all this background work, and also noting the possibilities for fruitful deliberations during the present session, we believe that an early conclusion of this matter is possible. It is necessary that a conclusive recommendation on the conference be made during the current session, and my delegation looks forward to a conclusion on this matter during the current session. We urge that efforts for finding a conclusive answer be initiated during the early part of the session.

Let me briefly touch upon the progress of the United Nations Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in our region. As reported earlier, subsequent to the intimation by the United Nations of the decision to start the Centre in India, we took several steps towards its implementation. A planning meeting with international participants and participants from the United Nations Secretariat and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) was held during January 1995. Subsequently, a draft agreement dealing with the Centre's status and organizational aspects was circulated to the countries of the region. Encouraging responses were received from several Member States. It is planned that agreements with Member States will be concluded by the end of July and further steps will be initiated for the functioning of the Centre. Several preparatory activities, including the construction of hostels for participants and the preparation of draft curricula for the courses, are under way. We look forward to the start of the Centre's operations in a few months, with the cooperation of various Member States of the region.

Turning to the work of the Subcommittees during the current year, we are very pleased with the extensive level of work carried out by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, as well as the progress made on new agenda items, such as that concerning space debris. We also note that the Legal Subcommittee conducted important deliberations, although the progress was slow. We plan to deal with these items later, when they are taken up for discussion.

Mr. Fernández (Chile) (*interpretation from Spanish*): I should like to join others in congratulating you, Mr.

Chairman, on your resumption of your office and on your record as Chairman of this Committee for so many years.

The Chilean delegation is attending this thirty-eighth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) with justified expectations for dealing with the agenda and for the conclusions to which our work can lead. We believe that our session this year, when the United Nations is commemorating half a century of existence, is especially conducive to a reiteration of our commitment to its history, principles and institutions. Our country is firmly convinced that the United Nations system constitutes the principal foundation on which the international order of our times is based and the principal guarantee that conflicts and crises will be settled through law and peaceful means.

In this context, the Chilean delegation wishes, first of all, to contribute to this general exchange of views a brief report on our country's activities in space matters and, secondly, to express our views on certain agenda items.

Institutionally, our Government has continued to take decisions aimed at the establishment of a national body is responsible for space affairs. In March this year, His Excellency the President of the Republic decreed a modification of the rules governing Chile's Committee on Space Affairs, expanding its membership and functions and assigning to it the task of formulating a proposal for space policy and a corresponding organic structure within the next six months. As a result of that decision, our country will have a new institutional structure for space affairs next year.

A second activity which we wish to report to the Committee is our country's full compliance with the tasks which it undertook as the headquarters of the *pro tempore* Secretariat for the Second Space Conference of the Americas. Of particular significance in this respect was the holding of a meeting of the Heads of the Latin American space agencies in Santiago, Chile, from 28 to 30 November 1994.

The third point is the imminent launching of the first Chilean satellite, possibly in August this year, by a Ukrainian Tsiklon rocket. This will be a microsatellite called Fasat-Alfa, developed by the Chilean Air Force and the National Aeronautics Corporation in cooperation with the University of Surrey. Its character and functions are of an eminently experimental nature and are designed to meet the requirements of environmental, meteorological and educational development in my country.

With regard to the proposed agenda for this session, our delegation would like in particular to express its opinion on certain subjects that it deems relevant.

It would seem appropriate for the Committee to make a pronouncement on the need to reiterate that outer space represents a field and a resource available to all humankind for carrying out activities that promote peace, security, development and international cooperation.

In order to achieve those objectives, the Committee should have available to it the means and resources — both scientific and technological as well as legal and political — that will make it possible fully to meet that objective. To this end, we propose that the institutional structure of the Committee be reviewed and adapted to the new requirements and trends of the international system. For this purpose, we propose that both the Legal Subcommittee and the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee incorporate into the agenda of their coming meetings a study of the institutional nature of the Committee.

Secondly, we are particularly interested in defining the creation of a regional centre for Latin America and the Caribbean, whose establishment has been the subject of negotiations in the various forums that deal with international space relations, both among countries and within the Secretariat itself. We understand that space research must necessarily be linked to the solution of development problems, and the functioning of a body of this sort would considerably increase awareness of and cooperation in such matters. It would also considerably increase the region's negotiating capacity to obtain support for research projects on space matters. We therefore reiterate our concern that a decision should be adopted on this issue.

Meanwhile, we propose that the Legal Subcommittee might consider, at its next meeting, incorporating in its agenda consideration of the general principles of international law on the environment from a comparative point of view.

Finally, our delegation would like to reaffirm its conviction that a third UNISPACE Conference should be held before the end of the century. We would insist on reiterating what we said a year ago: that the profound changes that have taken place in the world over the last decade provide not only a favourable context but also an unprecedented opportunity for a world forum on space that would be broad-ranging, free and auspicious. We believe that through this initiative, we can give a major impetus to

the peaceful uses of outer space and at the same time strengthen the United Nations system at this crucial stage for humankind.

I should like to add that our proposal concerning this Conference appears in the documentation on this subject, and we would like to refer to this in our next statement. As has already been said at this meeting, we would therefore suggest that the Commission should recommend to the General Assembly that it consider convening a third UNISPACE before the end of the year 2000.

Mr. Tófalvi (Hungary): I should like to discuss the four main characteristics of the space activities we have undertaken since the last meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in June 1994.

Topics I will touch on include our new cooperation agreements with other countries; programmes and projects in which we have been active for years in the framework of international cooperation; new programmes and projects in which we would like a creative partnership with others in future; and our opinions about the possibilities for regional and international cooperation in Central Europe.

Last May, the National Space Agency of Ukraine and the Hungarian Space Organization signed a cooperation agreement in the field of space activities. Ukraine later suggested several projects for cooperation, of which three could be incorporated into our programme. Consultations with experts are being organized on mutually acceptable topics.

In January the Russian Space Agency and the Hungarian Space Organization signed a cooperation agreement, and a Government-level agreement is being prepared between the two countries. We hope to be able to continue the creative cooperation that characterized the INTERCOSMOS era.

Indian experts have successfully completed their revision of the cooperation projects, as suggested earlier by Hungarian experts. We have prepared a cooperation agreement between the Indian Space Research Organization and the Hungarian Space Organization which is ready for signature. We hope it will be signed this September in Bangalore. We are convinced that this agreement will open up new prospects for cooperation between India and Hungary, to the mutual benefit of both countries. It is yet another example of the kind of cooperation that exists between the European Space Agency (ESA), the United States National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the Russian Space Agency and the Hungarian Space Organization. It also sets up a collaboration between a space Power — India — and a small country with remarkable experience in space research.

Hungary recognized that, as a small country, it should carry out its space activities in broad international cooperation with several partners. This is clear from those projects in which we have been active for years within the framework of international cooperation. We are participating in the CESAR project with a number of other countries within the framework of the Central European Initiative. The CESAR satellite will be launched later this decade with four Hungarian scientific instruments on board.

We are also participating in three ESA projects. In the field of remote sensing, we joined the CORINE land cover and the ERS-1 data-processing projects. The ESA Cluster satellites will be launched later this year, with a few Hungarian-built electronic parts on board. We are also participating in the Cluster Science Data System.

The ESA Euromir mission will begin this summer. A part of its dosimetric programme will be carried out by the Hungarian-built PILLE thermoluminescent dosimeter. Hungary is also building two pieces of electric ground-support equipment for NASA's Cassini space probe to Saturn. In addition, a space furnace, the Universal Multizone Crystallizator, designed and developed by Hungarian engineers, is now undergoing a one-year test at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Centre. We are also participating in two Russian programmes: Spectrum-Roentgen-Gamma and Mars-96.

In future, we would like to participate in various other international projects. For instance, we would like to take part in the ERS-2 programme with ESA, and we have held preliminary discussions on the possibility of Hungarian participation in the NASA-Mir programme with the newly developed version of the PILLE dosimeter, and in the RoLand cometary lander with some onboard electronic equipment.

At previous sessions of the Committee, we have repeatedly emphasized the extraordinary importance of regional and international cooperation in the new era of space research, not only in Central Europe but worldwide. We were very glad when in early 1992 the Central European Initiative made cooperation in the field of space research one of its goals. It was especially promising that the Central European Initiative planned this regional international cooperation in close collaboration with ESA.

Although there was a deadlock in 1994 in the CESAR programme, this year it seems to be continuing according to the original plan.

The true value and importance of such international cooperation can be particularly appreciated by those who know that small countries can utilize their intellectual potential only as an integrated part of the worldwide network of international cooperation. Small countries are exceptionally sensitive to the problems of international cooperation, especially to those of regional cooperation in the field of space activities, because the effectiveness of the space activities of these countries is determined primarily by their international relations.

Mr. Fulda (Germany): Let me at the outset, Sir, extend to you my delegation's congratulations on your continued chairmanship of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I should like to express my gratitude to the Chairmen of the two Subcommittees for their efforts in promoting constructive dialogue and in bringing about viable solutions in various matters of substance. My delegation's gratitude also goes to the Committee Secretary and his colleagues in the Office for Outer Space Affairs for their support of the Committee's deliberations.

The past year since our last meeting has been marked by numerous German space activities in various fields. First and foremost is the flight by the German Ulf Merbold, in his capacity as an astronaut of the European Space Agency (ESA), to the Russian space station Mir. He is the first European astronaut to participate in both a United States and a Russian manned mission.

One great step forward in the exploration of the Earth through remote sensing was made with the first flights of the German/Italian radar instrument SIR-C/X-SAR on board the space shuttle. Among other things, this instrument proved its ability to trace pollution in the oceans. Germany is also the prime contractor for ESA's second ERS remote-sensing satellite, which was launched recently and is currently performing a very interesting tandem mission with its still-operational predecessor ERS-1. The high importance Germany attaches to Earth observation is also reflected in the efforts of the German Space Agency DARA during its presidency of the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) in 1994.

Taking advantage of the miniaturization of technology, German activities in the field of small satellites have been stepped up by four missions — Bremsat, Tubsat, Safir and GFZ-1 — during the past year.

In the near future, particularly exciting phases of extraterrestrial missions with important contributions by Germany will begin. Ulysses will start its north pole passage of the sun and Galileo will approach Jupiter and eventually enter its atmosphere. This year we also celebrate five years of successful operation of the roentgen (x-ray) satellite ROSAT, which has produced extremely interesting insights into the structure of our universe. For the second half of this year, we also look forward to the first flight of Ariane 5, which was developed with considerable German contributions. We expect this new launcher to continue the commercial success of its predecessor, Ariane 4.

Turning now to the last session of the Legal Subcommittee, I wish to recall the fruitful dialogue that ensued from the presentation of a German-French working paper on the issue of space benefits. We hope that the ideas in that paper will lead to further progress on that subject.

My delegation welcomes the adoption by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of a multi-phase work plan on the issue of space debris. Germany considers space debris to be one of the most serious threats to any further peaceful use of outer space. We will therefore actively participate in the deliberations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on that matter.

We also note that the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space have proved satisfactory and that the Subcommittee has since decided that a revision of the Principles was not warranted.

As to the holding of a third UNISPACE Conference, we appreciate the Subcommittee's decision to consider the issue further in its entirety, including the options to achieve the goals pursued through other approaches, for example by restructuring the agenda of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. On this note, I wish to recall what I said at last year's session on the working methods of this Committee and its Subcommittees, especially with regard to the duration of their sessions. In the light of budget cuts in the United Nations as well as at the national level, I suggest we take some time to discuss how we could make our meetings even more efficient, exploring for instance the possibilities of shortening, streamlining and rescheduling our sessions.

May I conclude my initial remarks by expressing the hope that the spirit of cooperation will again prevail and that this session will result in progress for the benefit of the peaceful uses of outer space.

Mr. Fiuza Neto (Brazil): Allow me to begin my remarks by expressing my delegation's appreciation at seeing you, Sir, once again presiding over the deliberations of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Your proven experience and dedication to this Committee will again be needed in the present session, given the important matters we face in the days ahead. Once again, you can be sure of the full cooperation of the Brazilian delegation.

My delegation would also like to express its appreciation to the host country for its hospitality and to the Secretariat for the efficient preparation of this meeting.

It is also with great satisfaction that my delegation welcomes the new members of the Committee: Cuba, Kazakstan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nicaragua, Peru, Senegal and South Africa. We trust that they will contribute positively and constructively to our deliberations and will further enhance the Committee's work.

Before moving on to the substantive items of our agenda, I should like to extend a word of sincere gratitude to the former Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and to the Chairman of the Legal Subcommittee, Mr. John Carver and Mr. Václav Mikulka respectively, in recognition of their essential roles in ensuring the successful conclusion of the highly productive 1995 sessions of those subsidiary bodies. Concerning Mr. Carver, we would like once again to express our regret at his decision to relinquish the position of Chairman of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in which he has served with distinction for the past 25 years.

On the threshold of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations — a time for stock-taking and assessment of the contribution made by the Organization to the international community — we are confident that COPUOS and the United Nations will continue to play an ever-increasing role in the field of international cooperation on the peaceful uses of outer space.

But as recent discussions in this Committee and its two subsidiary bodies have indicated, our aims have now become much more complex: we must strive to address international cooperation in outer space in all its aspects, be they political, economic, environmental or, indeed, security-related. Peace and development being intimately intertwined, as is demonstrated in other forums of the United Nations, one of the overall concerns of delegations should be to narrow the technological gaps that still separate developing from developed countries.

In this connection, the ongoing discussions in the Legal Subcommittee on the item regarding outer space benefits reflect the best way in which this Committee can deal with the matter of international cooperation in an all-encompassing manner. We believe that the discussions of last March represented a significant step forward towards consensus on this matter. We therefore hope that the exchange of views in the present session will further enhance the understanding of this significant item. Brazil is convinced that, should there be a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space — a third UNISPACE — this important theme of space benefits could enrich our substantive discussions.

In relation to the environmental aspects of international cooperation in outer space, recent years have witnessed the emergence of a growing awareness of the unique means that space technology offers to monitor and protect the environment. As this awareness increases, the international community will eventually turn to the skies and question why the outer space environment, as an extension of the Earth's environment, has not yet been the object of comprehensive treatment by this Committee. Here is another theme that could very well be part of our discussions in a possible third UNISPACE.

Indeed, when the General Assembly, in resolution 49/34, decided to include "space debris" among the items for the priority attention of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, this decision was taken only one year after the item had first been included in the agenda of that subsidiary body — an indication, in our view, that this Committee should not be overtaken by events.

In this spirit, the Brazilian delegation welcomed the realization of the symposium on "technical and policy issues related to the use of the space environment", sponsored by the International Institute of Space Law and the Institute of Air and Space Law a few months ago, on the occasion of the thirty-fourth session of the Legal Subcommittee. We hope that this initiative will open the way for similar events in the near future. We also entertain the hope that the Legal Subcommittee will put the theme of space debris on its agenda even though the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee may still have work to do regarding the technical implications of the subject, which could benefit from simultaneous discussions in both Subcommittees.

During the present session this Committee will also have to examine matters related to the possible holding of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and

Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE). We trust that our present discussions on the theme will benefit from the efforts made by the informal, open-ended drafting group set up by the Working Group of the Whole of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. Delegations should therefore be in a position to address in a more focused way the agenda for such a conference, with a view to finalizing our discussions by the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

Such an important conference should enjoy the support of all those concerned — developing and developed countries alike. It should be seen not as an end in itself but as a window of opportunity for identifying concrete steps aimed at enhancing international cooperation in the peaceful use of outer space. We are prepared to work with that broader objective in mind.

Ms. Arrigo (Italy): This is the first time I have attended a plenary meeting of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I should like to express the satisfaction of the Italian delegation at seeing you, Mr. Chairman, once again leading the work of this forum, and I take the opportunity to thank all the delegations that are cooperating and participating in the development of activities in outer space.

In accordance with paragraph 37 of General Assembly resolution 48/39, my delegation affirms the necessity to promote and strengthen the development of all ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes. To this end, it is important to recognize that this Committee's activities have been in line with its mandate and its primary vocation, independent of other United Nations bodies.

At the same time, it is important to focus on the need for continued progress in the right direction, avoiding confusion with other roles and goals that would be inappropriate.

It gives me great pleasure to note the intensity of the proceedings of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee at its last session, in February, and to welcome the progress achieved by the Subcommittee.

I should like in particular to focus on the debate on the item concerning space debris, which ended with consensus on the multi-year plan. In this regard, I wish to inform the Committee that a coordinating working group of the Italian Space Agency has started work having scientific and legal competence in the question of space debris.

With regard to the item on the space applications programme, the Italian delegation appreciates the detailed report prepared by the expert of the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

We have listened with great attention to those delegations whose countries have offered to host regional centres for space science and technology education. We take this opportunity to appeal for the future establishment of a centre in one of the Central and Eastern European countries with which the Italian Government has concluded a number of scientific and technological cooperation agreements, and with some of which the Italian Space Agency is collaborating towards achieving the goal of the CESAR scientific mission.

We are also following with great attention the development of negotiations in the African region and, in particular, appreciate the hospitality offered by Morocco.

As the Committee knows, my Government is very interested in the social, economic and environmental development of the Mediterranean basin. Moreover, in southern Italy — in Matera — we have the Space Geodesy Centre, where the Italian Processing and Archiving Facility is located. The archiving, retrieval, processing and distribution of data from the ERS-1 and ERS-2 satellites are accessible to all interested users, and cover the Mediterranean and north African area.

We hope that the new perspectives of this regional cooperation will be taken into consideration, as well as Italy's interest and experience.

As the representative of the Italian Space Agency, I should like briefly to describe the position of Italy with regard to the organization of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE).

The debate on this item during the last session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee was very intensive. It was not easy to establish some common principles regarding the Conference. My delegation is among those who believe that the opportunity is still there to implement the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference and that the organization of a third UNISPACE Conference is inopportune.

We are conscious of the geopolitical, social and economic changes and developments of the last 13 years. International space cooperation has increased and expanded

thanks to the efforts of our Committee and also under the auspices of the United Nations. Many countries have appeared on the international space scene. The Italian space system itself has changed. For example, in 1982 the Italian Space Agency was not yet born.

Nevertheless, during the most recent session of the Subcommittee, in February, the Italian delegation appreciated the flexibility shown by some delegations and the spirit of compromise which made possible the intensification of the general debate on a possible third Conference and the establishment of an ad hoc drafting group. I would also like to thank the Secretariat for providing us with a first-discussion document on this subject.

Let me make some remarks on this point. The causes of our perplexity are linked to economic and political questions. Space activities in Europe are at a difficult moment. The economic crisis has affected ESA space programmes; an example of this is the achievement of the agreement on the International Space Station Programme, in which Russia has been invited to cooperate.

In Europe, the countries involved in space must take into consideration the Maastricht Treaty; the European Union is developing and extending its powers. Two meetings next autumn will be decisive in this context: the European Conference at the ministry level of ESA member States in Toulouse, and the European Conference on space policy sponsored by the European Parliament and the European Commission Community in Brussels. These and other considerations are pushing us to concentrate great attention on future space developments before making commitments and to compare our efforts at international cooperation on an equal basis.

My delegation is firmly convinced that only international cooperation can speed progress in space activities in the future. We also believe that every effort should be made to ensure that all countries have access to the benefits of space activities. At present, we ask for a moment of additional reflection to better understand our space capacities, our goals and international space needs, in the interests of all mankind. We are willing to consider every proposal, every tool and every way capable of promoting global economic, social and environmental development arising from space activities.

Mr. Böck (Austria): At the outset, the Austrian delegation would like to thank you, Sir, for your highly instructive and extensive statement on events which have taken place in the peaceful uses of outer space during the past year. We could see that it has been another extremely active year in space, a year characterized by increasing cooperation among countries and the rising number of States engaged in space activities.

Let me now comment briefly on diverse Austrian space activities, which are mainly focused in the following areas: space sciences, with special emphasis on solar-terrestrial relations; planetary exploration and space plasma physics; observation and monitoring of the Earth and its environment; and satellite telecommunications.

The funding for all Austrian space activities — amounting to approximately $50 million per year — is provided by the Federal Ministry of Science, Research and Arts, which is also responsible for the coordination of all space projects, assisted in this task by the Austrian Space Agency (ASA). Austria is dependent on bilateral and international cooperation to participate efficiently in the various areas of space research and its applications. Therefore, Austria has joined the European space institutions ESA, EUTELSAT and EUMETSAT.

In addition, Austria is also engaged in bilateral space activities, mainly with the Russian Federation. This is particularly true for planetary explorations, where Austrian scientists, having already gained valuable experience through their scientific experiments on several Russian space probes, are now preparing instruments for Mars 96. Bilateral activities with the Russian Federation also include extensive cooperation on life-sciences experiments undertaken on the MIR station as a follow-up to the successful AUSTROMIR-91 mission. Several Austrian medical instruments were employed during the long-duration flight of cosmonaut Valeri Polyakov, which was completed after 439 days in orbit on 21 March this year.

The Space Research Institute of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, in Graz, plays a major role in the exploration of outer space and space geodesy. The analysis of satellite data for Earth and environmental observations is being carried out by several Austrian institutions.

The year 1995 is of particular significance because of Austria's involvement in space missions of the European Space Agency. Four major projects are scheduled for launch during this year: the second ESA remote-sensing satellite ERS-2; the infrared observatory ISO, to be launched by an Ariane 4 rocket from Kourou at the end of September-beginning of October; the solar observatory

SOHO, scheduled to be placed into orbit by an Atlas II launcher from Cape Canaveral on 30 October; and the four CLUSTER satellites for the investigation of the Earth's magnetosphere and the interplanetary medium to be launched by the first Ariane 5 rocket in November-December this year.

Austrian scientists are involved in all these projects, and several Austrian industrial companies have contributed to the design, engineering and manufacturing work of these satellites and the Ariane 5 launcher. Austria has always been very active in promoting space cooperation between industrialized and developing countries, both through its engagement in the relevant committees of the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR) and the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) as well as through special initiatives. A recent example of such an initiative is the Mercure project, for which several European countries, including Austria, are designing and installing the pilot infrastructure for a communications system for environmental data transmission, which should later be operated by the United Nations Environment Programme. Mercure will ensure the rapid electronic transportation of large digital data sets containing, *inter alia*, environmental satellite images needed to assess global environmental conditions and the extent of environmental events and disasters.

Austria is also continuing its efforts to organize international meetings bringing together space experts from industrialized and developing countries alike. Let me mention two events in this context that may be of particular interest to the delegations in this Committee.

The Austrian Space Agency, in close cooperation with the United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, is again coordinating the preparatory work for the COSPAR/IAF Symposium on the "Utilization of Micro- and Small Satellites for the Expansion of Low-Cost Activities, taking into account the Special Needs of Developing Countries", to be held during the next session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in February 1996.

Thanks to the financial support of the Austrian Ministry for Science, Research and Arts, the summer courses of the International Space University (ISU) will for the first time be held in Vienna, at the Technical University, in 1996. This event forms part of the so-called millennium anniversary celebrations in Austria. These summer courses of the International Space University assemble about 130 participants from all over the world for 10 weeks of space studies and the elaboration of design projects. We sincerely hope that the delegations present here can promote this unique encounter and encourage bright students from their respective countries to participate in these forward-looking courses in science and engineering, law, business and other space-related fields.

A comprehensive description of Austrian space research is contained in the Austrian report on space activities, in document A/AC.105/592. Furthermore, a brochure on Austrian space technologies, including the activities of industrial companies, is available for all delegations.

In our view, the United Nations Programme on Space Applications could play a primary role in the promotion of the use of space technology for environmental and developmental purposes. It therefore seems all the more important to provide the Programme with additional financial resources. Austria has been one of the few countries that have regularly contributed to the Programme, and we intend to continue our support. I am therefore glad to be able to announce that my country's contribution for 1995 totals $20,000, and we would like to call on other States to follow suit so as to enable the United Nations Programme on Space Applications to cope with the numerous tasks ahead.

In our view, the application of space technology can effectively deal with the problems of illiteracy, isolation and lack of information afflicting the development process. The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs, through the Programme on Space Applications, has organized a number of regional and international conferences, workshops and symposiums on various aspects of the application of space science and technology, especially for the benefit of developing countries.

In 1994 Austria sponsored a very successful United Nations symposium, called "Enhancing Social, Economic and Environmental Security through Space Technology", in Graz. In the wake of that success, a follow-up symposium will be organized in Graz from 11 to 14 September of this year, entitled "Space Technology for Improving Life on Earth". This symposium, jointly sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the City of Graz, the State of Styria, the European Space Agency and the United Nations, is mainly devoted to participants from developing countries.

The main objective of the forthcoming symposium in Graz is to promote the use of space technology to improve living and economic conditions, particularly in developing

countries. Through presentations and panel discussions, participants will address the subject of how remote sensing and satellite communications can provide accurate and timely information, which is essential for policy formulation and effective decision-making. Presentations will cover case-study and pilot-project illustrations on the use of satellite technology to enhance food security, communications infrastructure, health and education and early-disaster-warning systems. International and national institutions that are actively involved in space activities will be invited to present an overview of programmes and specific applications so that cooperative activities with institutions from developing countries can develop. Institutions from developing countries will identify areas where their countries are or could be utilizing space technology to assist in formulating policy or implementing management decisions concerning, among other things, the sustainable exploitation of natural resources and the preservation of the environment.

Finally, let me turn briefly to the subject of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

As my delegation pointed out in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the changed international political situation, advances in space technology and in its applications and increased awareness of their potential terrestrial benefits; the recognition of the special role that space technology can play in areas of universal concern, such as environment and disaster warning, mitigation and relief; and the potential role of space technology in enhancing international peace and security could provide the basis for our Committee to develop a set of sharply focused objectives for a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. Such a conference should be based on the results and the evaluation of UNISPACE II, which was hosted by the Government of Austria in Vienna in 1982. Main items to be discussed during UNISPACE III could include the current state of space science, technology and research; international cooperation in the areas of earth observation, environmental monitoring and telecommunications; and the development of joint projects and the establishment of local training and research facilities, especially in the developing countries.

If such a conference comes into being, participation should be open to all Member States, as well as to relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, which would participate as observers. The Office for Outer Space Affairs could serve as the substantive secretariat of a third UNISPACE and provide the executive secretary of the conference.

My delegation welcomed the extensive discussions and deliberations of the informal and open-ended drafting group, under the chairmanship of Mr. Richard Tremayne-Smith of the United Kingdom, during this year's session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. In our view, the indicative agenda, included as an appendix to the scientific and technical report, provides a valuable framework for further action. We look forward to further discussions on this topic during this session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) so that the relevant aspects of a UNISPACE III can be considered and a comprehensive and consensus-oriented concept regarding such a conference can emerge.

Mr. Kon Lee (Republic of Korea): On behalf of my delegation, I wish to extend my appreciation to you, Sir, for again chairing this session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. I am confident that under your able leadership this session will be guided to a fruitful conclusion.

As this is the first time that my delegation has spoken in this Committee as a representative of a Member State, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Committee for their positive support of my Government. I also wish to express appreciation for the words of welcome extended through your fine statement yesterday to newcomers to the Committee.

The recent political changes in the international environment have opened a new era of cooperative partnership between Member States in the field of space-related activities. At the same time, the rapid advances in space science and technology have broadened the scope for their practical application for the benefit of all countries. The Committee is now in a better position to focus its energy on promoting the exploration of outer space for peaceful purposes and on ensuring that the benefits derived from it accrue to all States.

As the Republic of Korea has just begun to undertake space activities with the launching of a telecommunications broadcasting satellite, we are exploring what we can contribute to the work of the Committee.

Having participated in the session of the two Subcommittees preceding this session of the Committee, my delegation would like to make some general comments on

several issues that will continue to be crucial in the years ahead.

First, a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III) should be convened before the end of this century at the latest, with the basic objective of assessing the new dimensions brought about by the recent political changes and technical advances and of devising more effective ways and means of utilizing space science and technology for development as we approach the twenty-first century.

In this respect, the report of the Working Group of the Whole provides a framework for future discussions by the Committee since it encompasses the views and ideas of Member States on this issue. My delegation hopes that the Committee will arrive at an early and positive conclusion on the holding of a third UNISPACE Conference in a constructive and timely manner.

Secondly, I should like to stress the importance of the issue of space debris and its consequence for the Earth and the outer space environment. Aware of the potentially hazardous impact of space debris on space activities, my delegation welcomes the multiyear work plan adopted by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. The work plan will give structure to our future discussions and thus help us to make speedy progress on this item. We also share the view that the question of space debris is only a part of the much more general problem of the protection and preservation of the outer-space environment.

Thirdly, the advent of an information society necessarily requires further efforts on the part of the international community to regulate and manage both ongoing and future space activities by establishing an appropriate legal framework. In this context, we should address the issue of the definition and delimitation of outer space and the utilization of the geostationary orbit in a more forward-looking manner.

My delegation is also of the view that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Legal Subcommittee are the very forums in which various aspects of the use of the geostationary orbit can be dealt with, maintaining complementarity with the activities of the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).

Fourthly, international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space should be further strengthened to encourage the sharing of space resources and technology. In this regard, my Government strongly supports a more active United Nations role in this field and believes that various national, regional and international programmes to promote international space activities should be developed within the framework of the Organization.

Allow me now briefly to introduce some of my country's significant space activities. This year, Korea will launch its first communications and broadcasting satellite, KOREASAT, on 3 August. This satellite will provide fixed satellite service and digital direct broadcasting service to customers in Korea. My Government expects the KOREASAT project to generate new momentum in the future of Korean space activities.

Other space programmes include the Korean Aerospace Institute's Korea Multi-Purpose Satellite (KOMSAT) system project. KOMSAT is scheduled to be launched in 1999. The main operational mission of KOMSAT will be to provide various applications in Earth observation and mobile communications experiments.

We are acutely aware of the vast technological horizon of space activities and their potential role in advancing economic and social development. As a result, the Korean Government is now formulating a long-term comprehensive national space programme that will be based on an assessment of our national development priorities, technical capabilities and financial resources.

Lastly, I am pleased to inform this Committee that the Asia-Pacific Satellite Communication Council (APSCC) was established in Seoul last October. As the fastest-growing region of the world, the Asia-Pacific region is now witnessing an explosion of demand for satellite communications and broadcasting. In this regard, we believe that the APSCC will serve as a valuable regional forum to promote regional exchanges and cooperation in this field. I should also like to take this opportunity to thank the Office for Outer Space Affairs for its support and technical advice in creating this organization.

In conclusion, let me reiterate my delegation's full commitment to working with you, Mr. Chairman, and with all other Member States in making this session a successful one.

Mr. Suárez Amezcua (Mexico) (*interpretation from Spanish*): The delegation of Mexico is pleased to see you once again, Mr. Chairman, guiding the discussions at this session. Your well-known diplomatic skills and your broad knowledge of the subjects on our agenda give us hope that, under your skilful guidance, we will have interesting

discussions and useful exchanges of views on the subjects that are of interest to us.

During our previous sessions, we have noted that it has become almost obligatory to refer frequently in the statements of most delegations to the concept of international cooperation. The explanation is that international cooperation is a priority component of major importance on the international agenda of many States and one of the objectives promoted by our Committee.

Along these lines, my delegation wishes to emphasize the great importance the Mexican Government attaches to the promotion of international cooperation by States that have significant capacities in the field of space, bearing in mind the aim of encouraging the proper application of the recommendations adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).

Accordingly, my delegation believes that this is an ideal opportunity to reiterate the Mexican authorities' support for the convening of a third UNISPACE, taking account of the guidelines contained in paragraphs 25 to 29 of General Assembly resolution 49/34, dated 9 December 1994. This could provide an impetus to reflect on the ways to promote efforts for cooperation in outer space.

Another aspect which has aroused the Mexican delegation's attention and which is intimately linked to the concept of international cooperation within our Committee is the establishment of regional space-science and technology education centres.

In this connection, my delegation views this session as a good opportunity for us to demonstrate once again the Mexican Government's determination and willingness to see the negotiations lead as soon as possible and in the most convenient form to the establishment of the regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean. In order to obtain that objective, which is of immediate interest to the region, we believe that it would be appropriate to confirm the commitment of the United Nations, through its Office for Outer Space Affairs, to lending decisive support to the various plans for the establishment of regional centres of this sort.

Another item which continues to be of interest to our Committee relates to the use of nuclear power sources in outer space. Recognizing the importance and significance of this subject, my delegation agrees that more extensive and up-to-date information on it is necessary if we are to begin work to cover possible gaps or imprecisions in the principles adopted by the General Assembly in this regard. In conformity with this proposal, the Mexican delegation believes that it would be a good idea to ask the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to provide the information to which I have referred and, if necessary, to convene the Working Group of the Legal Subcommittee to pursue its task of identifying gaps in the aforementioned principles.

On a previous occasion, my country's delegation referred to the importance of having a legal regime to avoid the proliferation of space debris, and to the need to make clear that the five legal instruments on outer space are universal. On the assumption that such work could be useful not only to the States members of COPUOS but also to other members of the international community, the scientific and academic sectors and all those interested in the subject, my delegation reiterates the proposal that a preliminary document be drafted that would include the opinions of interested delegations, which would make it possible subsequently to establish a sufficient basis to initiate a reliable analysis of the status of this issue.

Finally, I wish to refer to another matter that has captured our attention during recent discussions: the content of the agenda and the duration of sessions. In this connection, my country would tend to favour those suggestions and ideas calling for the full utilization of our sessions. We agree with all the delegations that have proposed that pragmatic and up-to-date agendas be drawn up, allowing the subjects to be addressed effectively, appropriately and in depth.

Mr. Marchán (Ecuador) (*interpretation from Spanish*): Having recently arrived in Vienna as Ambassador and Permanent Representative, it is a source of great satisfaction for me to participate for the first time in a session of this Committee. Given my longstanding academic connection to the subject of space, I have always followed with great interest, though at a great distance, the items debated in this forum.

You, Mr. Chairman, can count on my personal cooperation and that of my delegation in the work on the important items we shall be addressing during our deliberations over the next two weeks. I am also certain that your well-known skill and experience will ensure us a very successful session. I should also like to congratulate the new Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Ambassador Dumitru Mazilu of Romania, on his election.

I am very familiar with the distinguished work of Mr. Jasentuliyana, as both the author of works on outer space and the Director of the Office for Outer Space Affairs. I had the opportunity to meet with him last in Santiago, when I had the honour of holding a vice-chairmanship at the Second Space Conference of the Americas. I am convinced that his great knowledge of the subject, as well as the support which his staff will provide to this Committee, will allow us to make progress on items which require not only our study and analysis, but also our decisions.

I take this opportunity to welcome the new members of COPUOS. My delegation has noted that their participation in the Scientific and Technical and Legal Subcommittees has already enriched the debate and given new impetus to the discussions.

The statement made yesterday by the Chairman at the opening of the session was a very important one. He brilliantly summarized some of the Committee's achievements over the past year as well as the major challenges which we continue to face. Nevertheless, as he rightly pointed out, these can be positively resolved through international cooperation as the guiding force of States' space activities. It is well known that the essential foundation of space cooperation lies, on the one hand, in the fact that no undertaking as vast as outer space can be addressed exclusively by one group of States and, on the other, in the fact that the global benefits of space cooperation can be provided in a broader and more effective manner, which is to the advantage of all the nations of the Earth. Moreover, in addressing the issue of space cooperation, we are bound by a legal rule clearly established in article IX of the 1967 Treaty on Principles Governing the Activities of States in the Exploration and Use of Outer Space, including the Moon and Other Celestial Bodies. It states that:

> "In the exploration and use of outer space, including the Moon and other celestial bodies, States Parties to the Treaty shall be guided by the principle of co-operation and mutual assistance..." (*General Assembly resolution 2222 (XXI)*)

My delegation has taken an active part in the discussions of the Committee's subsidiary bodies this year. The serious and intelligent treatment of the assigned subjects has allowed us to make progress on various issues. We are of the view that the great progress made to date should be deepened and consolidated in the context of this Committee's work.

I wish to refer to certain subjects in greater detail.

As I have pointed out, my delegation attaches particular importance to international cooperation, which is absolutely vital if all countries of the Earth, and the developing countries in particular, are to benefit from the knowledge acquired. Given the scope of space exploration, there can be no doubt whatsoever that this is a matter affecting mankind. Carrying out the task of exploration with new technological tools without making those tools available to other nations would be a moral error that would hamper expansion at all levels of the frontiers of human knowledge.

Thus, as one author has said, cooperation on this scale between all nations can be achieved only

> "when all parties feel sure that the contributions of every single one of them will be adjusted to its capacity, when the results of the effort can be freely exchanged between all of them, and when all share the benefits."

The strengthening of our countries' indigenous capacities, access to sources of financing, the implementation of programmes and projects with real impact and, *inter alia*, access to materials, technology and information can be ensured only through broad and efficient international cooperation, and this is an urgent necessity.

At past sessions my delegation noted its concern about the increase in space debris, particularly in the geostationary orbit. My delegation has also noted that many other delegations share this concern and that a growing number want this matter to be studied by the Legal Subcommittee in the near future. Space debris in the geostationary orbit — a limited natural resource, which is in danger of saturation — can threaten space navigation, telecommunications, future access and the very security of States. Consequently, we cannot ignore this subject.

With regard to the geostationary orbit itself, my delegation believes that a *sui generis* legal regime must be established in that orbit that takes account of its physical properties and technical attributes and safeguards the right of access that numerous countries may not yet have exercised. This would provide a framework of reference to guarantee that the utilization of that orbit by all nations of the planet could be ensured independently of their level of economic, scientific or technical development.

In the working out of a regime of this sort, account must be taken, on a basis of universality and equity, of, among other things, the interests and requirements of all countries, whether current or future users, as well as the geographic situation of certain countries. In the debate on the relevant agenda item I shall refer to this subject in greater detail.

My delegation has since the outset supported, and wishes to reiterate that it supports, the convening of a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space — a UNISPACE III. We hope that at this session it will be possible to make more progress towards consolidating and defining the subjects relating to the convening of such a Conference. The impetus that it would give to international cooperation, as well as to various space subjects, would result in deeper consideration of all the matters that are of concern to us.

I take this opportunity also to reiterate Ecuador's interest in the establishment of a regional centre for space science and technology training for Latin America, with headquarters in Mexico and Brazil. There is no doubt that our entire region would benefit directly from such a centre.

My delegation notes with satisfaction that the Legal Subcommittee approved the questionnaire on aerospace objects. This Committee will have to endorse that questionnaire so that it can be distributed among all States.

Finally, I should like to refer briefly to our methods of work. In this connection, I think we should maintain the greatest possible flexibility in the procedures of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies. Of course my delegation attaches special importance to consensus, which has been a very useful instrument enabling the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to achieve important agreements of various sorts, some of which were certainly difficult and complex. It is true that the methods of work of any body that has to consider matters and take decisions can and must be improved, but it is not necessary to undermine in any way the consideration that we must give to the substantive issues that we wish to study and analyse.

In conclusion, I am pleased to repeat my delegation's support for you, Mr. Chairman, for the other officers of the Committee and for the delegations represented here, in the efforts to ensure that we make real progress on the subjects that we have to address in the context of our agenda.

Mr. Perek (Czech Republic): Once again, Sir, we meet under your chairmanship, in anticipation of a fruitful session. We are ready to contribute to achieving that aim.

This year we meet with an enlarged membership. It is our expectation that the presence of new members will add to the experience and expertise of the Committee.

An important period in the history of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee came to an end this year. The Chairman of that Subcommittee, Professor John Carver, announced his intention to step down from that post following his completion of 25 years' distinguished service. All of us who had the privilege of working under his guidance highly value his great ability to conduct the Subcommittee's business quietly and effectively and to contribute essentially to the shaping of views — sometimes disagreeing, sometimes clashing — towards a common base and to finding a compromise acceptable to all. We wish Professor Carver all success in his future work.

Let me turn now to the items on the agendas of the Subcommittees. We appreciate the work being done by the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the domain of the Space Applications Programme — in particular, the very rich programme of workshops, courses and meetings on the whole spectrum of space applications and the coordination of fellowships and of technical advisory services. It is gratifying to note the very wide cooperation of the United Nations specialized agencies and of non-governmental organizations in implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82). All these efforts are capably coordinated by the Office for Outer Space Affairs.

As regards remote sensing of the Earth, one of the important points is access to remote sensing data and analysed information. Perhaps more attention should be paid to new ways of disseminating data by computer networks. We feel that knowledge of these relatively new channels of information flow is still restricted to specialists in computer technology and that not enough is known elsewhere. We therefore propose that the Secretariat prepare a study on accessibility of remote-sensing information through computer networks in order to show how quick, inexpensive and comprehensive these channels could be. The study should also show what technical equipment is necessary to benefit from this technical development.

In this context, we welcome the information provided by Mr. Jasentuliyana in his statement that a Home Page for the Office for Outer Space Affairs in the computer network INTERNET is in preparation. We anticipate that the Home Page will contain also the United Nations Register of Objects Launched into Outer Space and references to other important sources of data, such as the orbital elements and various lists of satellites.

The results of the study on the accessibility of remote-sensing data, which we have just proposed, could also form part of the Home Page.

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee has recommended that the question of the use of nuclear power sources in outer space be retained on the agenda, and rightly so. It will have to be followed with attention in the future because this is an important way of supplying energy to space probes. In one aspect, this item overlaps with the item on space debris, namely in the question of safety of orbiting space objects with nuclear power sources on board. In particular, it concerns collisions with space debris and a proper choice of the altitudes of disposal orbits. It would be logical to continue consideration of these aspects under the more general item on space debris, while keeping in mind the special relevance of safety of nuclear power sources.

The item on the geostationary orbit is under discussion in both Subcommittees. The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee should take into account the recent definition of the geostationary orbit used by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). It may affect the concept of a satellite which appears fixed over a point on the surface of the Earth.

The discussion of the geostationary orbit in the Legal Subcommittee showed little progress last year, as in the several preceding years. We see the reason for this in, *inter alia*, the unfortunate combination of the item on the geostationary orbit with the item on the definition of outer space. As we and other delegations stated last year, the two items have nothing in common in the scientific domain. In the political domain they had something in common in the past, but, judging from recent statements, the common ground belongs to history; we should be concerned with the present and future situation and leave history to historians. We should keep in mind that the International Telecommunication Union adopted a recommendation — non-binding, but nevertheless important — dealing with a definition of the geostationary orbit and with the reorbiting of satellites to disposal orbits situated beyond the geostationary orbit.

The item on space debris is, in our opinion, the most important item on the agenda of this Committee and that of its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. It has not yet been put on the agenda of the Legal Subcommittee because more discussions of scientific and technical aspects are still necessary before any legal norms are considered. On the other hand, the Legal Subcommittee will need considerable time to develop the basis for a substantive discussion. This was the opinion in the Legal Subcommittee when it considered possible new agenda items. A proposal was put forward, *inter alia*, to include an item on the evaluation of valid norms of international law applicable to space debris and another item on legal aspects of space debris. Our delegation proposed merging these two items into a single item under a suitable title. A discussion of this item — perhaps not a very formal one, but, rather, in a manner resembling scientific symposium — would show the spectrum of opinions on these matters and would prepare the ground for a possible substantive discussion in the future.

An important step was taken in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with the formulation of the work plan for the years 1996 to 1998. Since the plan was declared to be flexible, we might consider a few additions to it, such as the consideration of debris in the geostationary orbit. The details will be presented later.

We support the idea expressed yesterday by the representative of Poland, Ambassador Wyzner. We agree that the question of space debris is part of a more general problem of protecting and preserving the outer space environment. However, our task is even more complex. We have to keep outer space open for peaceful, reasonable and beneficial activities. In other words, we have to introduce efficient and sustainable management of outer space. This we perceive as the role of our Committee for the future.

As regards the proposal for holding a third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE), we appreciate the work done by the Working Group during the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. We feel that there is one more very important reason to hold the Conference: the idea of the information superhighway, technically developed in the world-wide web, or INTERNET networks. The networks represent a radical change in accessing information which will affect all fields working with data sets or needing information from various sources. The new channels of information are very fast, require relatively inexpensive equipment, can be accessed even in remote parts of the world and are related to all space applications

and practically all scientific research. All topics dealt with at a third UNISPACE will have to be considered from the point of view of the interaction between space activities and the information superhighway. This idea should be developed in the justification for a third UNISPACE.

Some items on our agenda, such as those on space transportation and matters relating to life sciences, to planetary exploration and to astronomy, are not likely to require specific regulation. Nevertheless, we attach importance to these items because this Committee has to have before it updated information on all important developments in outer space activities.

We shall make more detailed statements on some of the foregoing points in due time.

Ms. Hasan (Pakistan): At the outset, I would like to state that it is a pleasure for my delegation to attend this session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) once again with you, Sir, as its Chairman. We are confident that under your skilful guidance the Committee will, as it has in the past, succeed in satisfactorily completing the tasks before it.

I would also like to take the opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Mazilu of Romania on his election as Vice-Chairman and to join the other delegations in welcoming the new members of COPUOS.

My delegation would further like to place on record its appreciation of the valuable assistance rendered to the Committee by its Subcommittees, working under Professor John Carver of Australia and Mr. Václav Mikulka, persons of eminence. My delegation hopes that the Committee and the two Subcommittees will continue to be headed by persons with the same qualities so that these bodies can continue to make progress in their work in the face of the ever-growing complexities of issues arising on account of technical and political considerations.

Professor John Carver of Australia announced at the thirty-second session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee that he would be retiring after that session. He has served with distinction as Chairman of the Subcommittee for 25 years and has made a lasting and valuable contribution to the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space.

Pakistan's space programme, executed by SUPARCO, the national space agency, continues to make modest progress in the peaceful applications of space technology. The developmental work on Pakistan's second experimental satellite, BADR-B, has registered further progress, and operational testing of various subsystems of the spacecraft has been undertaken satisfactorily.

Pakistan's Satellite Ground Station at Islamabad continues to acquire Landsat MSS/TM, SPOT HRV multispectral/panchromatic and NOAA AVHRR HRPT data. The station continues to provide high-quality Landsat and SPOT data to user organizations in Pakistan and abroad. A number of thematic studies were completed by using the satellite remote sensing data coming through this station.

SUPARCO's Satellite Aided Search and Rescue Facility, comprising the Pakistan Local User Terminal and Mission Control Centre, to locate aircraft, ships, and land mobiles in distress within a 5,000-kilometre area has been operating successfully. Distress signals were received and processed, and information has been supplied to related user agencies on a regular basis.

Pakistan is one of the three original signatories of the Memorandum of Understanding of 1992, which brought into being the framework of multilateral cooperation in space technology and applications among the Asia-Pacific countries for the benefit of the region. The other two sponsoring countries, China and Thailand, had already hosted a workshop and conference within this framework in 1992 and 1994, respectively. The third event in this series was hosted by Pakistan, in cooperation with China, the Republic of Korea and Thailand, at Islamabad in April 1995; 111 delegates from 12 countries and representatives from four international organizations participated.

The Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development in Asia and the Pacific Region was held in Beijing in September 1994; it was preceded by the Preparatory Meeting of senior officials. Pakistan, among other countries, also participated in the Conference and made a significant contribution, both in the Preparatory Committee meeting and in the Conference proceedings. The purpose of the Conference was to launch a regional space applications programme for development in Asia and the Pacific. The main outcome of the Ministerial Conference was the Ministerial Declaration, adequately reflecting the need to promote national capability-building in the countries of Asia and the Pacific to make increasing use of space technologies and addressing the urgent problems confronting them.

In conclusion, I should like to say that my delegation will continue to support all efforts directed towards furthering the progress of the work of this body and will contribute as effectively as possible to the consideration of the various agenda items at the current session. I should also like to reiterate my delegation's appreciation of the efforts put into the functioning of this Committee by you, Mr. Chairman, and the officers of the Committee.

Mr. Porojan (Romania): It is my pleasure to extend to you, on behalf of my delegation, our appreciation for your service once again as Chairman of this Committee. We are confident that, with the proven experience and dedication of the Committee and your clear leadership, all our deliberations will be successful. Like other delegations, the Romanian delegation assures you of full cooperation.

Our delegation also welcomes the election as Vice-President of His Excellency Ambassador Dumitru Mazilu, a well-known Romanian specialist in international legal affairs. I should like also to express the Romanian delegation's appreciation to the host country for its well-known hospitality. And, last but not least, I should like to convey the Romanian delegation's gratitude for the meaningful contributions of the secretariat in preparing the instruments and the documents before the Committee, and also to thank our two Subcommittees for their very hard work.

Since the Committee's last session, major changes have taken place in the world, many of which have had a direct impact on space activities. The Romanian delegation welcomes the progress made during the Subcommittees' thirty-second and thirty-fourth sessions, respectively, especially on the proposed principles regarding international cooperation in the exploration and utilization of outer space for peaceful purposes. Good work has also been done in discussions on the legal aspects related to the application of the principle that the exploration and utilization of outer space should be carried out for the benefit and in the interests of all States, taking into particular account the needs of developing countries.

Romania's national space programmes reflect its efforts to pursue a policy of peace and ensure the demilitarization of outer space. As noted by my delegation during the session of the Legal Subcommittee, we consider that the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 47/68, should be strengthened, first through efforts by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to create a better framework for the use of nuclear power sources, and secondly through efforts by the Legal Subcommittee to develop legal norms.

Our delegation considers the definition and delimitation of outer space to be necessary because of the different legal regimes that should cover space and outer space, respectively. Delimitation should be based on the deliberations and conclusions of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee.

We wish to reaffirm our view that the geostationary orbit is a limited resource and that all countries should have free access to it, including those that do not yet have the capacity to launch satellites. The interests of such countries should be safeguarded by ensuring that the legal principles adopted take into account their possible future technological development. In that connection, the suggestion by the Brazilian delegation that a seminar be held on the possible legal implications of the existence of space debris in the geostationary orbit was of great interest.

We must recall our great interest in the fact that States that have already developed space capabilities appear to be willing to cooperate with other countries. We note that the Russian Federation has already indicated its readiness to cooperate with the countries of Eastern Europe.

As members know, in 1993 the Romanian Space Agency signed the Agreement on Space Cooperation for Peaceful Purposes with the European Space Agency. As a result, Romanian institutions received significant scientific and technical assistance.

Romania is currently operating ground-based stations for telecommunications, satellite television, meteorology and navigation. Data transmission will follow shortly. A station for processing remote-sensing data and several laboratories to perform similar tasks have also come into operation.

We must emphasize Romania's long experience in the manufacture of satellite-borne scientific devices, such as magnetometers, field and radiation detectors, computer facilities and telemetering instruments.

We should like to take this opportunity to express once again Romania's firm commitment to the promotion of the peaceful uses of outer space through international cooperation. Despite the difficult economic situation in the country, the Government has managed to maintain its space research and application capabilities, most of which are well known. Ideally, we should find an equitable means of

ensuring that space exploration is a right of all mankind. The Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space is the forum for consensus and for the definition of international priorities. It is high time to achieve international agreement on imaging system priorities, international partnership, education and training, and the question of encouraging commercial enterprises to develop affordable systems.

The Romanian Government supports the proposals of the United Nations Expert on Space Applications regarding the creation of regional centres for space science and technology education. As was stated last year, Romania is ready to host one such regional centre. At the same time, we consider that the principal donors must continue to support the provision of training opportunities for scientists from developing countries.

It is necessary, with the cooperation and support of advanced countries, to organize training courses and to arrange programmes on remote-sensing applications for planning and management of the environment, natural resources and the physical infrastructure in various economic regions, and to stimulate more local participation.

Romania strongly believes that the benefits from space programmes should be shared by a greater number of States and peoples. It is important to use space knowledge for communications development, environmental protection and disaster prevention. Space activities have had a profound impact on people's lives ever since the beginning of the space era, in terms of their ability to improve the quality of life on earth and to take a unified view of human development on our fragile planet.

Romania believes that free access to space-related information, the transfer of technology, the provision of additional technical and scientific educational aids and the dissemination of advantages resulting from space could effectively promote development and help developing countries to resolve their existing differences. Thus, international legal standards in this area should be adopted. Establishing and supporting regional mechanisms within the United Nations framework could greatly influence the achievement of that set of goals.

Mr. Liu Dagun (China) *(interpretation from Chinese)*: At the outset, Sir, please allow me, on behalf of the Chinese delegation, to extend warm congratulations to you on your reappointment as Chairman of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS). We have been inspired by the great progress and achievements since you were first appointed Chairman of this Committee. I hope that, under your leadership and through the joint efforts and cooperation of all delegations, continued smooth progress will be made during the current session in the Committee's deliberations on the various agenda items.

I should also like to extend warm congratulations and a warm welcome to the eight new members of the Committee — Cuba, Peru, Kazakstan, Malaysia, Nicaragua, the Republic of Korea, Senegal and South Africa. We are convinced that the participation of these new members will inject new vitality into the Committee's work.

With the continuous development of space technology, human activities in the exploration and exploitation of outer space are also intensifying and expanding. We are pleased to note that in the past year new achievements have again been registered in the space activities of many countries. International cooperation in space has also made new progress. The United Nations Programme on Space Applications has won the support of the countries and international organizations concerned. Many training courses, symposiums and seminars have been held, and through these a host of technical advisory services have been provided to many countries, particularly the developing ones. All these developments have contributed to the promotion and coordination of space activities and have provided mankind with a sound basis to benefit from human exploration and the peaceful uses of outer space.

Since the last session of the Committee China has recorded new successes in the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. We made several successful launches, using the Long March series of launching vehicles, including the newly developed Long March-3A. The Chinese Government has consistently supported and actively promoted the implementation of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications. Last September the Ministerial Conference on Space Applications for Development was held in Beijing, and the Workshop on Microwave Remote Sensing Applications was organized at the same time. This is a major activity in the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE 82).

The Chinese Government will continue actively to support and participate in the activities of the Space Applications Programme. This includes our continued offer to the developing countries of two one-year fellowships for training in the area of remote sensing and cartography, as well as satellite geodesy.

Here I should like to mention that in March this year the Governments of China and the United States of America signed a memorandum of agreement concerning matters of international trade relating to commercial launching services. China's cooperation with other countries in the area of outer space has also been strengthened.

On ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes, the Committee has done a great deal of work in recent years. The Chinese Government wishes to reiterate that, although the current international situation is moving towards relaxation and the arms race in outer space has subsided, preventing the militarization of outer space remains an issue of concern to the entire international community. The Chinese Government has always actively supported all efforts towards the peaceful uses of outer space and is opposed to the use of space technology for non-peaceful purposes.

We stand for the intensification of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit of all mankind, and we attach great importance to the work of formulating international space law within the United Nations system in order to strengthen the space legal order. We believe that the relevant organizations within the United Nations system should maintain sustained and effective consultation and coordination in the area of outer space so as to utilize more effectively the limited resources of the system that are allocated to space activities. The Chinese delegation is prepared to work with all other delegations, through full consultations, in exploring ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.

With respect to agenda items 5 and 6, we have taken note of the reports of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee and the Legal Subcommittee, and we would like to express our appreciation for the progress made by these two Subcommittees. We will make known our concrete views on these matters in future when these items are discussed. Furthermore, I should like to emphasize the question of establishing a centre for space science and technology education in the Asia and Pacific region. This is an item to which the Chinese delegation attaches great importance. We hope that an appropriate and sound settlement to this question will be reached through consultations and cooperation.

After many years of effort, the Committee on Outer Space has achieved substantial results. The current changes in the international situation are conducive to the establishment of an international legal order for space and to the promotion of international cooperation in the peaceful uses of outer space. We hope that the Committee, through the joint efforts of its Member States, will continue to solve the problems before it and will achieve even greater results.

China, as a developing space Power, has limited capabilities with respect to the exploration and uses of outer space, but the Chinese Government will make an effort to expand space cooperation with other countries and to contribute its fair share to this great cause of humankind — the peaceful uses of outer space.

In conclusion, I wish also to thank the secretariat staff, headed by Mr. Jasentuliyana, whose diligent work laid the foundation for the smooth running of this session.

The Chairman: I now call on the representative of the Association of Space Explorers.

Mr. Prunariu: I am very pleased to address the thirty-eighth session of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on behalf of the Association of Space Explorers (ASE), the sole international organization to gather under its auspices over 200 individuals from 26 nations who have flown in space.

Since ASE's establishment in 1985, the very spirit that has consistently motivated its activities has been directed at peace and understanding, at the joining of efforts to promote harmonious views with regard to issues of global concern and at the use of space technology for the benefit of all mankind.

ASE pays special attention to and has a particular interest in the work of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space.

The members of our Association have made direct contributions to the development of various space programmes. Astronauts carry out their tasks aboard spaceships and are thus constantly subjected to the adverse conditions of the outer space environment and to the major risks implied by such an activity. This is why we salute the special consideration that is being given to space debris as a separate item on the working agenda of the Committee's session. Space debris represents a danger not only for active space facilities but also for the astronauts who carry out on-orbit activities.

Recent developments in the life sciences and their implications for the field of space medicine are another

topic of direct interest to our Association. The concrete use of recent research has a direct influence upon the living conditions, the activities and the health of those who work in outer space.

ASE members share the knowledge gained from their experiences, emphasizing the significance and benefits of space science and exploration. They promote scholastic excellence by supporting educators and motivating students. This past year saw the commemoration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of man's conquest of the Moon, and this jubilee year lent special energy to ASE's educational activities. At every opportunity, ASE members strive to improve public understanding of our endeavour in space and to inspire young people to continue the challenge taken up 34 years ago.

In November 1994, five members of our Association attended the third Forum of the European Organization for the International Space Year (Eurisy), held by Euro Space Camp Belgium. The Forum brought together students and educators from different countries, who enjoyed the opportunity to enrich their knowledge through the direct exchange of ideas and information with the astronauts attending the Forum. In December last year, three astronauts members of our Association attended the inauguration of the Canadian Space Center "Cosmodôme", designed to contribute more efficiently to the education and training of young people.

One of the major issues that ASE has focused on is the environment. Viewing Earth from space has imbued ASE members with a sense of responsibility for the well-being of our world. ASE has been at the forefront among organizations advocating the use of space-based observation platforms to monitor humanity's impact on the global environment, and it supports the timely worldwide dissemination of data gathered by these space resources. Our Association is continuing to participate in an international project to preserve and protect the world's forests.

A prime component of ASE's ongoing partnership with the United Nations is environmental education. ASE chose "Space and Ecology" as the theme of its tenth annual Congress, held in Russia. The 10-day event was devoted to promoting the use of space-based platforms as posts from which to monitor environmental change on Earth. Over and over again, the point was made by ASE members, astronauts and invited guests that space technology has a vital role to play in defending our home planet from ecological damage. Of particular concern to ASE's Russian hosts was the deterioration of the exquisite Lake Baikal ecosystem in Siberia. Upon the Congress's conclusion, the members adopted the tenth ASE Congress general statement in the form of an appeal to Presidents, Heads of State, parliaments, religious and civic leaders, and all the citizens of the world. The text of this appeal reads as follows:

> "Astronauts and cosmonauts from many nations met at their tenth Congress in 1994. Members of the ASE emphasized the need for international cooperation in order to maintain and restore the balance of the Earth's ecology and in order to protect the integrity of global biogeochemical systems. In the spirit of the United Nations Rio de Janeiro Declaration on the Environment and Development, ASE members appeal to Governments and leaders and peoples of the world to undertake the following actions:
>
> "First, to establish a global database to address environmental concerns with compatible formats available to all people.
>
> "Secondly, to develop international standards for the analysis and identification of substances released into the environment, to limit toxic effects. Existing agreements on toxic substances should be reviewed regularly and updated to include newly identified toxic substances.
>
> "Thirdly, to review and consolidate existing environmental agreements, including local residents in the process, and encourage our Governments to adhere to them.
>
> "Fourthly, to identify areas of particular ecological interest, such as Lake Baikal, that require special protection to be maintained for all humanity.
>
> "We, as members of ASE, will promote the protection of the environment by using our photography in public meetings to explain our concerns and listen to the concerns of others.
>
> "Adopted this 15th day of August, 1994."

ASE would be grateful to the secretariat of COPUOS if it were to approve the presentation of this appeal, adopted at its tenth congress, to other United Nations organizations involved in environmental protection and distribute it as an official document of the United Nations.

The Chairman: I call on the representative of the International Law Association.

Mr. Böckstiegel: I should like, first, to express my gratitude and that of the International Law Association (ILA) to you, Sir, for your efficient chairmanship of the Committee and both to you and to the Secretary of the Committee, Mr. Jasentuliyana, for substantial leadership and for the progress in the use of outer space for peaceful purposes.

For the benefit particularly of those representatives and observers who have not attended the sessions of this Committee in recent years, I should like to recall very briefly some basic information regarding the International Law Association.

The ILA was founded as long ago as 1873 and has, ever since, been a non-governmental international organization of academics and practitioners in the field of international law. The ILA has national branches in all parts of the world, and its headquarters in London. Its work is presented and formalized at biannual conferences held in various places world wide. The last conference was held in Buenos Aires, and the next will be held in August 1996 in Helsinki. Between conferences the work is carried out mainly by Committees which are established for the various fields of public and private international law.

One of these Committees is the ILA Space Law Committee, which I have the honour to chair. Its Rapporteur is Professor Williams of Argentina, and its members are distinguished specialists in the field, many of whom are well known to members of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (COPUOS) and its Legal Subcommittee.

For further information on the ILA and its work regarding space law, reference may be made to the recent United Nations publication "Space Activities of the United Nations and International Organizations" (A/AC.105/521), as well as to the ILA conference reports, which are published in book form after every ILA conference.

As the work of the ILA Space Law Committee in recent years has focused on the protection of the space and earth environment in relation to space activities, and in particular on the issue of space debris, let me first of all note with pleasure and satisfaction the progress that has been made in COPUOS in dealing with these subjects. We heard about some of that progress again this morning. You yourself, Mr. Chairman, took a leadership role in this context when, in your statement at the beginning of the 1993 COPUOS session, you highlighted these issues and concluded

> "that the time has come for this body to fulfil its responsibility to the international community by beginning formal discussions on what steps should be taken to address this growing problem." *(A/AC.105/PV.379, p. 21)*

The ILA could not agree more with that conclusion.

Thereafter, the secretariat issued a further report — "National Research on Space Debris" (A/AC.105/565). But a particular milestone is the fact that, at its session in 1994 the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee for the first time had space debris on its agenda and discussed this topic at considerable length. For good reasons that Subcommittee then, at its session in 1995, dealt with space debris as a priority agenda item and adopted a multi-year plan for its work until 1998. In the context of this multi-year plan, the International Law Association will certainly try to assist in any way it can with the work on this topic.

But we also note that there is still some hesitation in the Legal Subcommittee about having substantial discussions on space debris at an early date. The ILA certainly feels that, at least, information on that agenda item should be exchanged between the two Subcommittees of COPUOS because any discussion in the Legal Subcommittee obviously needs to be based on the scientific and technical information available in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. And vice versa: if, at least in the long term, progress should be achieved in this area, the option of an international instrument has to be taken into account at an early stage in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, and the specific expertise of the Legal Subcommittee obviously can make a considerable contribution to this.

Let me now briefly present a progress report on the work of the International Law Association in this area. On the basis of a decision at the ILA Conference in Seoul in 1986, the ILA Space Law Committee has been doing research, exchanging information and views and, finally, preparing drafts regarding protection of the environment from damage caused by space activities, particularly space debris. In doing so, the legal experts in the ILA Space Law Committee have had the benefit of support from three scientific consultants — Professor Lubos Perek of the Czech Republic, whom we heard this morning; Professor

Dieter Rex of Germany; and Professor Ricciardi of Argentina.

Landmark events included the following: a regional ILA seminar in Buenos Aires in December 1987; an international colloquium at the Institute of Air And Space Law in Cologne in May 1988, which emphasized interdisciplinary sides of the question and which resulted in a book; discussions and a further mandate at the ILA Conference in Warsaw in August 1988; a meeting in Asunción del Paraguay in October 1988; a report to the 1990 ILA Conference in Australia, which resulted in a mandate to the Space Law Committee to start work on the elaboration of relevant principles; and, after the preparation of three drafts, a report to the 1992 Cairo Conference of the ILA, which resulted in a mandate to prepare a final text of a draft international instrument.

After this long and extensive preparation, three drafts have been prepared, circulated and discussed at various stages since 1992 by the ILA Space Law Committee, and the final text, with the title "International Instrument on the Protection of the Environment from Damage Caused by Space Debris", was submitted, with an extensive commentary by the Rapporteur, to the sixty-sixth Conference of the International Law Association, in Buenos Aires in August 1994. The Conference adopted it by formal resolution, the text of which is enclosed, together with the text of the instrument, with the written version of this statement as distributed at this meeting.

Major provisions in this final text deal with definitions (article 1), scope of application (article 2), the general obligation to cooperate (article 3), obligations to prevent, inform, consult, and negotiate in good faith (article 4), compatibility with other agreements (article 5), responsibility and liability (articles 6 to 8), dispute settlement (article 9), and then the usual provisions on formalities of an international instrument.

As many delegations are aware, a symposium organized by the International Institute of Space Law was held in connection with the recent 1995 meeting of this body's Legal Subcommittee. At that symposium it was suggested once again that the Legal Subcommittee now take up the topic of space debris on its agenda and that the ILA draft might be a good starting point for relevant discussions.

Finally, it should be pointed out that the Buenos Aires resolution, in addition to adopting the draft instrument on space debris, requested the ILA Space Law Committee to re-examine the 1984 ILA Draft Convention on the Settlement of Space Law Disputes to determine whether developments since 1984 require any changes or the drafting of a new instrument, and also to examine in that context what further steps should be taken to promote the peaceful settlement of disputes regarding space activities. This examination is under way in the ILA Space Law Committee, and if any delegation has any suggestions or comments in this regard, we would be happy to receive them and take them into account for the report we plan to submit to the ILA Conference to be held in Helsinki in 1996.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.